

Boy Scout of America

Troop 80

Downers Grove, Illinois

**PARENT
HANDBOOK**

**Visit our website at:
www.bsatroop80.com**

THE AGREEMENT

Troop 80 agrees to provide a wholesome, well-rounded program with trained adult leaders, incorporating the ideals, aims, and methods of the Scouting movement. This program will include developing the individual Scout's skills, abilities, and confidence to enable him to grow into a responsible citizen of the United States. The Troop will provide this program in a series of weekly Troop meetings, short and long term campouts, special activities, service projects, and special training. During these activities, the Troop will provide adult supervision and leadership, Troop equipment, safe transportation, advice, guidance, and positive adult role models.

...And most of all, we will do our best to make the program FUN!

The Scouts agree to participate in Troop and Patrol meetings, campouts, special activities, and service projects when possible. They further agree to abide by the Scout Oath and Laws; to support the Troop by participating in fundraisers and leadership training; and to work at improving their scout craft skills and at advancing in rank. They agree to wear the uniform correctly to all Scout functions.

...And most of all, they will do their best to have FUN!

The parents agree to support the Troop and the Scouts in carrying out the program.

...And most of all, they will do their best to have FUN!

TROOP 80 PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- To provide at least 8 short term camping experiences each year.
- To provide a long-term camping experience each year at Camp Mach-kin-o-siew, Wisconsin or a similar patrol-method Scout camp.
- To provide a High Adventure opportunity every 2-3 years.
- To participate in the District Camporee, if any.
- To encourage participation in Order of the Arrow.
- To encourage participation in formal Leadership Training.
- To conduct Troop Leadership Training. (for Scouts)
- To encourage adult leader training.
- To encourage more adult participation in the life of the Troop.
- To encourage advancement to 1st Class within 1 year of joining the Troop.
- To encourage advancement of at least 1 rank per year thereafter.

- To encourage the development of the patrol method.
- To actively recruit 5th grade Webelos to join the Troop.
- To conduct fundraisers each year (example: wreath and popcorn sales).
- To conduct service projects each year.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT FOR Scouts JOINING Troop 80

The following items of personal equipment will be required of Scouts:

1. **Scout uniform shirt** (tan); we suggest short sleeved, since boys tend to quickly outgrow the long sleeved shirt. During cold weather a long sleeve knit shirt may be worn under the uniform shirt. Buy it big enough to last 2-3 years and to use it as your top layer in cold weather. We do not recommend purchasing the scout uniform pants since they are expensive and quickly outgrown. The scout belt is optional. Troop 80 uniform is complete with a clean, well fitting, no-holes pair of blue jeans. Uniform shirts must be tucked into pants and buttoned.
2. **The following insignia for the Scout shirt;** (for placement instruction see the Scout Handbook or ask any adult or older scout)
 - a) Two red shoulder loops (epaulets).
 - b) Des Plaines Valley Council Patch (can use the patch from Cub Scouts).
 - c) Troop numerals "80".
3. **A "three season" sleeping bag, preferably with a stuff sack.** This bag should be more than a slumber bag; we camp from March – November with some temperatures dropping below freezing. Because of the wet climate, we recommend a synthetic fiber filled bag, not down-filled. If you have any questions regarding the purchase of an appropriate bag, ask one of the Troop leaders.
4. **Foam sleeping pad.** Air mattresses can be bulky and tend to deflate during the night.
5. **Eating utensils.** Knife, fork, and spoon; plate, bowl and cup. These do not have to be a fancy kit.
6. **Pocket knife. (ONLY after receiving the Totem Chip for knife safety)** We recommend one with a clip or chain to fasten to their belt. This should be no bigger than can fit in their fist. Please note that straight bladed "hunting knives" are not allowed.
7. **A small flashlight.** The double-A (AA) type are best.
8. **A compass.** Talk with Troop leaders before this purchase as the Troop has a number that are used for teaching skills.
9. **Hiking boots or sturdy shoes.** For winter outings, waterproof boots. We recommend you carefully consider this item, as this is one of your most important pieces of equipment on a hike. We have found that Scouts often use tennis shoes. While these may be sufficient for camp use, the more rugged hiking or wet weather camping necessitates a sturdier shoe/boot.
10. **A waterproof parka or poncho.** We recommend a rubber coated, nylon poncho/rainsuit. Plastic tends to tear easily in the woods, then you have a duct tape poncho.

Troop 80 PROVIDED EQUIPMENT

Troop 80 will provide:

- rank insignia
- patrol patches
- Troop position patches
- Troop neckerchief and slide
- Scout Handbook upon joining the Troop

On campouts Troop 80 will provide:

- tents
- dining flies
- cook kits
- cooking utensil kits
- stoves

If you have any questions about the proper type of equipment, or need advice before purchasing, please ask one of the adult leaders. Scout uniform items can be purchased from the Council Scout Shop in LaGrange.

Troop 80 ADULT POSITIONS

Troop Committee Positions

Committee Chairman — Responsible for the overall Troop operation.

Outings, Outdoor Activities, Transportation Coordinator — Arranges for outings; obtains permits; makes reservations; distributes and collects permission slips; collects and disburses fees; arranges for parents to attend. Arranges transportation for outings and other functions; obtains insurance information required for tour permit.

Treasurer - Maintains financial records of the Troop and individual scout accounts; reports monthly to the Committee.

Secretary - Compiles and distributes minutes of the Committee meetings; corresponds as needed, prepares annual charter, prepares annual charter.

Membership, Registration, Communication — Uses District list to contact, by letter, Webelos Scouts and Leaders; organizes an open house for Webelos and parents; acts as liaison between Webelos Dens and Troop; organizes any programs and ceremonies for Webelos to Scouts transition. Manages scout registration process. Creates and updates Troop directory and roster.

Fundraising — Organizes sale of wreaths; orders bows and wreaths in September; obtains permits from Council and from Downers Grove; prepares order blanks; picks up and distributes wreaths to Scouts; arranges for street sales; maintains records of sales and participants to be given to Treasurer; collects money from sales and gives to treasurer for deposit. Assists with other fundraisers as needed. (Popcorn sales- may be separate position).

Advancement – Responsible for insuring advancement program is carried out in the Troop; maintains records of advancement; insures advancement is within BSA guidelines; reports advancement to Council and prepares advancement awards for Courts of Honor.

Adult Leaders

SCOUTMASTER: Responsible for the overall program in the Troop.

ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER (S);

Scout Leadership Training
Outings and Outdoor Activities Coordinator
Mentor for First Year Scouts to First Class
Mentor for First Class Scouts to Life
Eagle Coach

MEETING ATTENDANCE

We recognize that, try as a boy might, he may not be able to attend every weekly troop meeting. Homework, sports and extra-curricular activities also play a role in your son's development. However, we encourage scouts to attend as many meetings as they can, even if it is only for a portion of the meeting. A scout should always bring his Scout Handbook to the meeting. This is necessary to record advancement and provides important information to assist the scout in achieving advancement requirements.

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO?

Boy Scouting has one simple rule before any activity begins: "two deep leadership". This means two responsible adults are present at all Scout activities. This includes dropping off a Scout at an event. If two adults are not yet present, please do not leave your Scout, stay until at least two adult leaders have arrived.

CAMPOUT PARTICIPATION

Adults participate in campouts by driving, assisting the Scout Leaders, providing supervision for safety and health, and having a good time.

Adults sleep in tents separate from the Scouts. Generally, adults will eat most meals with the patrols, cooked by the Scouts.

Adults are free to enjoy the time in camp, may try some of the activities, may practice scout skills, and talk with the other adults and Scouts.

Bear in mind that the boys are learning to be self-sufficient; adults should not cook, clean-up, or set up camp for the Scouts. (Scouts set up adult tents)

Day Outings

Adults participate by driving, assisting the scout leaders, providing supervision for safety and health, and having a good time. Depending on the type of outing, adults are asked to help with skill stations or judge patrol activities. (Instructions will be given before you will be asked to help.) On hikes, bike trips, etc., you will be able to participate.

Service Projects

Adults participate by driving, assisting leaders, and providing supervision. Feel free to pitch in on any service project.

Special Activities

Adults participate by helping with planning, arranging for refreshments, coordinating activities, keeping records, etc. Each special activity has specific tasks to be shared. An experienced adult has the prime responsibility; others assist. If you are interested in one of these but aren't sure what is required, ask.

Training Requirements and Opportunities

The Council provides Adult leader training at various times during the year. We have found that these training opportunities help the parents better understand what the Scouting program is about. If you are interested in one of these, ask. You can also obtain training on-line, specifically, Youth Protection, Safety Afloat, Safe Swim Defense and Weather Hazards Training. If you plan on going to any of the outings **YOU MUST HAVE TAKEN THESE COURSES AHEAD OF TIME.**